

The purpose of the litter survey is to determine the perceived extent of the litter problem in Rhode Island. This litter survey was distributed to all police and public works departments in Rhode Island. Information gathered from this survey will help to determine the need for changes in the laws and demonstrate the need for these changes. We are very interested to see how you perceive the litter problem in your community and if your perception matches those of your municipal officials. If you are interested in filling out a survey, please download the survey, fill it out and forward it to:

RI Litter Task Force  
Suite 330  
235 Promenade Street  
Providence, RI 02908

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<b>RI Litter Task Force Enforcement Survey</b>
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9/15/ 03

1. How would you describe littering in your community?  
\_\_\_\_\_ no problem    \_\_\_\_\_ minor problem    \_\_\_\_\_ seasonal problem    \_\_\_\_\_ major problem
2. How would you describe illegal dumping in your community?  
\_\_\_\_\_ no problem    \_\_\_\_\_ minor problem    \_\_\_\_\_ seasonal problem    \_\_\_\_\_ major problem
3. How often do you cite people for littering/illegal dumping?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Very Often    \_\_\_\_\_ Often    \_\_\_\_\_ Occasionally    \_\_\_\_\_ Never    \_\_\_\_\_ n/a (not my job to do so)
4. What mechanism do you use to enforce anti-litter requirements? i.e., tickets; community service  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the range of the penalty? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What mechanism do you use to enforce illegal dumping? i.e., tickets; community service  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the range of the penalty? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How much money have you collected in fines from littering/illegal dumping in the past 2 years?  
2001 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 2002 \$ \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_ Do not know
9. What is the money from littering/illegal dumping fines used for?    \_\_\_\_\_ Do not know  
\_\_\_\_\_ Litter Prevention/Clean Up Programs    \_\_\_\_\_ General Fund    \_\_\_\_\_ Other, specify:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Do you have local ordinances that prohibit littering and illegal dumping?

\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_ No      \_\_\_\_ Do not know

If yes, please provide details (including who enforces the ordinances) or attach the ordinance

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11. How familiar do you feel your officers are with state litter laws?

\_\_\_\_ Very familiar    \_\_\_\_ Somewhat familiar    \_\_\_\_ Not familiar    \_\_\_\_ Do not know

12. Does your city/town have a program where offenders clean up litter as part of a community service sentence?

\_\_\_\_ Yes for litter/dumping violator's only      \_\_\_\_ Yes for litter/dumping and other offenders  
\_\_\_\_ No      \_\_\_\_ Do not know

13. Does your community have volunteer groups, either public or private, that conduct litter clean-ups?

\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_ No      \_\_\_\_ Do not know      \_\_\_\_ Also or only have paid workers

If yes indicate category below and how often:

\_\_\_\_ Public (municipal) volunteers: \_\_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_\_ Semi-Annually \_\_\_\_ Yearly \_\_\_\_ As needed

\_\_\_\_ Private volunteers: \_\_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_\_ Semi-Annually \_\_\_\_ Yearly \_\_\_\_ As needed

14. Rate sources of litter in your municipality using the following rating scale:    0= cannot rate(n/a)  
1= not a problem    2= minor source    3= occasional source    4 = seasonal source    5= major source

____ fast food cups & food containers	____ cigarette butts/packaging
____ alcohol cans/bottles	____ tires, car parts
____ soda, water, other non-alcohol containers	____ oil, other auto fluid containers
____ discarded lottery tickets	____ take out food containers
____ plastic shopping bags	____ other: _____

15. What do you believe are the biggest barriers in enforcing state and local litter laws? (Check all that apply)

\_\_\_\_ People do not tend to litter/illegal dump in front of law enforcement officials

\_\_\_\_ Fines are too high

\_\_\_\_ Fines are too low

\_\_\_\_ Evidence needed to prosecute too difficult to collect/store

\_\_\_\_ Litter problem is minor compared to other violations officers deal with

\_\_\_\_ Other. Please specify:

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16. In what way do you think the enforcement process can be improved?

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17. How do you think we can motivate people not to litter the streets?

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18. Your comments are important, please provide additional feedback on litter/illegal dumping:

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Municipality: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you! Please return completed survey to:** RI Litter Task Force, Suite 330  
235 Promenade St, Providence, RI 02908